

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

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INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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R 081002Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8348
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CT, SU, LY
SUBJECT: CAE/LIBYAN/SUDANESE RELATIONS

REF: BANGUI 363

SUMMARY: CAE RELATIONS WITH LIBYA AND THE SUDAN CONTINUE TO FOLLOW A CONFUSED COURSE. LIBYAN DELEGATIONS VISITING BANGUI HAVE MADE PROGRESS ON TWO OF THE JOINT PROJECTS AGREED TO DURING QADDAFI'S VISIT LAST OCTOBER BUT THREE OTHERS ARE STILL DORMANT. THE CAE HAS REPLIED POSITIVELY TO A MESSAGE OF FRIENDSHIP FROM NIMERI BUT HAS ALSO FOLLOWED UP ITS DENIAL OF ALLEGED SUDANESE CHARGES (REF-TEL) WITH A MOVEMENT OF A DC-3 LOAD OF TROOPS TO THE SUDANESE BORDER. END SUMMARY.

1. LIBYAN ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL PARTY DELEGATIONS ARRIVED IN BANGUI IN MID-FEBRUARY. ECONOMIC NEGOTIATIONS WERE TOUGH BUT RESULTED IN AN AGREEMENT TO PROCEED WITH ESTABLISHMENT OF THE JOINT COMPANIES IN AGRICULTURE
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AND IN IMPORT/EXPORT. IT IS STILL NOT CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT LIBYA WILL UNILATERALLY CONTRIBUTE ENOUGH MONEY TO PUT THESE TWO COMPANIES INTO OPERATION. FOR EXAMPLE, LIBYA HAS OFFERED \$2 MILLION FOR A SUGAR FACTORY PROJECT, WHICH IS ONLY A FRACTION OF THE TOTAL COST. THERE WAS APPARENTLY NO PROGRESS TOWARD ESTABLISHMENT OF THE JOINT BANKING OR MINING COMPANIES NOR THE AIRLINE. (SEE BANGUI

2086). THE LIBYAN PARTY DELEGATION WAS WARMLY RECEIVED AND LIBYA USED THE OCCASION TO DISTRIBUTE ANTI-EGYPTIAN PROPAGANDA.

2. SUDANESE PRESIDENT NIMERI SENT A MESSAGE OF FRIENDSHIP BACK WITH THE CAE REPRESENTATIVE AT THE MEETING OF THE SUDANESE SOCIALIST UNION IN KHARTOUM AT THE END OF JANUARY, AND THE GOCAE ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER CITED IN THE SUDANESE CHARGE TO REPLY WITH RECIPROCAL FEELINGS OF GOODWILL. PAIRED WITH THIS, HOWEVER, IS THE STRONG GOCAE DENIAL OF ALLEGED SUDANESE CHARGES THAT IT IS COOPERATING WITH LIBYA AGAINST THE SUDAN (REFTEL) AND THE MOVEMENT OF CAE TROOPS TO BIRAO (23E, 10N). LATTER OCCURRED MARCH 4 AND IS NOW COMMON KNOWLEDGE IN BANGUI. IT APPARENTLY CONSISTED ONLY
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OF ONE DC-3 FLIGHT. PURPOSE WAS PRESUMABLY NOT TO TRY TO STOP RUMORED INCURSIONS FROM CAE INTO SUDAN, BECAUSE AS FAR AS SUDANESE EMBASSY HERE KNOWS, THESE HAVE EVER BEEN DISCUSSED WITH THE GOCAE.

3. COMMENT: SOME OBSERVERS SEE A CONNECTION BETWEEN THE SLIGHT IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS WITH LIBYA AND THE STIFFENED CAE POSTURE TOWARD THE SUDAN. WE ARE NOT SO SURE. EMPEROR BOKASSA IN HIS AUDIENCE WITH THE AMBASSADOR FEBRUARY 26 TALKED OF HAVING (TRICKED) QADDAFI BY EMBRACING ISLAM SHORTLY BEFORE DECLARING HIMSELF EMPEROR AND GIVING UP ALL FIRST NAMES, INCLUDING MUSLIM ONES. GIVEN THIS ATTITUDE, REPEATED CAE PROFESSIONS OF FRIENDSHIP WITH THE SUDAN, AND CAE MILITARY WEAKNESS, WE DOUBT THAT THE CAE
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WILL IN FACT SUPPORT LIBYA IN ITS ANTI-SUDAN ACTIVITIES.
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